

Summary of Economic Conditions

- Tempe has the highest concentration of high technology firms in Arizona. In addition, Tempe has the densest industrial area in Arizona, and two zip codes (85282 and 85281) represent the highest concentration of businesses in Arizona. While Tempe represents less than 4% of the State's population, more than 15% of Arizona's high-tech companies are located in Tempe.
- Many of Tempe's manufacturing and service firms are international companies. Familiar names include AlliedSignal, America West Airlines, Nelco Technology, Medtronic Micro-Rel, MicroAge, Microchip Technology, Simula and Varian. Some of Tempe's larger employers include Arizona State University, 14,000 employees; Salt River Project, 2,175; AlliedSignal, 1,800; America West Airlines, 4,000; Motorola, 3,775; Tempe Elementary School District, 1,700; Chase BankCard Services, 1,700; and City of Tempe, 2,000.
- Tempe has one of the largest "affordability gaps" in housing in the East Valley at 15%. (Mesa – 5%, Chandler- 9%, Scottsdale- 14%.) This measurement compares median income to housing prices.
- 21% of Tempe households pay more than they can afford for housing (>30% of income). This creates a situation of frequently being only a paycheck away from homelessness for many families.
- Almost half (40%) of all new jobs created are expected to pay less than half of the livable wage.
- Young children are disproportionately represented among Tempe's poor. The highest poverty rates in the community include female-headed households with children under age five (38.1%) and all families with children under age five (17.4%).